



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING - REVISED

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Somers

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

Councilor Somers arrived later in the meeting.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mary Kelly.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2014-0184 Proclamation Recognizing West Side Middle School Class of 2014

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Flax.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2014-0157 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program

Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Schmidt called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

Susan Cullen, Planner II - Neighborhood & Community, stated that the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program is a tax credit program to provide funding to municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing corporation tax credits for businesses who make cash contributions to these entities. The Town Community Development Department will serve as the municipal liaison.

Mary Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), stated that GAF provides finances for emergency medical treatment for animals picked up by Animal Control. GAF also makes the public aware about topics such as bite prevention; spaying and neutering; inoculations; microchips; the Too Hot for Spot Campaign; and the feral cat project. Ms. Kelly believes that increased public awareness would result in fewer animals going through the animal control facility.

Ken McBride, 202 Monument Street, a member of the Bill Memorial Library Board of Directors, stated that through this program the library would replace its oil heating system with a geothermal

heat source. He noted that this would decrease the carbon footprint of the library and ease the financial burden on the library's endowment.

Tricia Cunningham, 70 Miller Road, North Stonington, representing the Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, Inc. Fairview facility, noted that Fairview would replace existing packaged thermal air conditioners as an energy efficiency measure. The funding would replace almost half of the units at the facility. Ms. Cunningham noted that Fairview is a non-profit skilled care nursing facility and the savings would go back into the infrastructure to enhance the quality of life of those residing there.

The Town Manager noted that the role of the Town is simply to vet the proposed projects and appoint a liaison. He stated that the challenge is to find businesses willing to participate in the program because these projects will not go forward without funding. For every dollar that a company redirects towards a non-profit for energy efficiencies, it gets a dollar tax deduction on its tax return; other projects have a 60% reimbursement rate. Applications are due on July 1, 2014.

There being no further comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

Councilor Somers arrived at this point in the meeting.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf and Councilor Peruzzotti

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION TO AMEND to remove 2014-0173 Report on Town Attorney Caseload from the deletion list was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor Watson.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried 6 In Favor, 1 Opposed. (Opposed: Councilor Frink)

a. Approval of Minutes

2014-0185 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 3, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2014-0175 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Rachel Scullion - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Aimee F. Allaire - \$4.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Marci Casey - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Sandra Champion - \$9.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Carl Conrad - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Nora Belle Lurched- \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Chinwe Erike - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

James Eskra - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Larry Grundy - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Elizabeth Hogan - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lauren Huck - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Arnold Jordan, Sr. - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pride Kelledees - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Heather King - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lisa Knobloch - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Beverly L. Lavalley - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Amy Matteson - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine S. Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Nina Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathryn A. Roschmann - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katy M. Stoddard - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lawrence Taylor - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Merin Troutman - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Arianna Turello - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine Wilhelm - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jeanne M. Yellow Robe - \$2.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marsha Zimmermann - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine Zod - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Emily Burke - \$13.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patricia Carrigan - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eileen Cicchese - \$31.74 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Karen Colgan - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jane W. Coutu - \$60.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Diane Darling - \$12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Susan McMillan-Decorte - \$2,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kelsey A. Fournier - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mark Fournier - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Heather Frost - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patricia W. Garcia - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lillian Green - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Catherine Hoffman - \$35.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
SECADD, Inc. - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Arnold Jordan, Sr. - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James Ledwidge - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Janet Ledwidge - \$12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eric Motin - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Nina Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Knights of Columbus - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Daniel Pineault - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Barbara Strother - \$105.80 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Phyllis Walsh - \$190.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Wesley Williams - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lillian Zabinsky - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kirsti Zarn - \$52.91 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mayra Zayas-Mendin - \$56.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Tony Medeiros - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Karl Salvati - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
First Church of Christ Scientist - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$8.56 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Darlene and Barbara Weeman - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

Groton Utilities - \$122.78 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Alpha Delta Kappa-Zeta Chapter - \$400.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$70.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Bookmarks Book Club in memory of Elizabeth Colson - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2014-0163 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Revision

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0170 Connecticut State Library Construction Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0177 FYE 2014 Suspense List

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0181 Referral of Town-Owned Properties to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0182 Referral of LaValley Property Acquisition to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0183 Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign an Agreement with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0187 Appointment of Jeff Zuliani to Parks and Recreation Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received communications regarding the Noank Community Garden, Mystic Streetscape sidewalks, and a television program on climate change.

Councilor de la Cruz noted that the boat launch at Calvin Burrows Field has deteriorated and a few trailers have been damaged.

Councilor Frink, Councilor Watson, and Councilor Flax attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting.

Councilor Frink attended an Economic Development Commission meeting.

Councilor Watson and Mayor Schmidt attended the Parks and Recreation 35th Anniversary of Programs for People with Disabilities.

Councilor Flax attended a Golf Advisory Board meeting.

Mayor Schmidt attended a meeting to update the public regarding Lawrence & Memorial Hospital; the Police Awards Ceremony; a Mystic Co-Op Task Force meeting; the Grand Opening of Physician One Urgent Care; and the West Side Middle School graduation.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the RTM approved fourth quarter transfers. The next regular meeting of the RTM is scheduled for July 9, 2014.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that the Second Annual Mystic Blues Festival will be held June 27-29, 2014, and an informational meeting regarding the Crystal Lake Road project will be held June 18, 2014. Mr. Oefinger noted that the Council may want to suspend the rules later in the meeting to discuss a letter he received from the State Department of Transportation regarding a master municipal agreement for rights of way projects.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz**

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of June 3, 2014, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

The Committee of the Whole discussed pending litigation, the Town Attorney's case load, and the items on tonight's Agenda.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**2014-0163 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Revision**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A REVISED EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's current Equal Employment Opportunity Policy was adopted in February 1979, readopted in September 1989, and administratively revised in August 2002, and

WHEREAS, since the last revision other social, religious, and personal preferences have been identified and legally prohibited from being considered as a reason not to employ a person or persons, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a revised Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (attached).

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0170 Connecticut State Library Construction Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Library Board Construction Grant Program provides grants for public library construction projects that create usable space and for projects that improve existing space, and

WHEREAS, the grant covers one-half of the total project cost, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library is proposing a project involving an interior renovation and space repurposing to accommodate an expansion of the local history room to house Town Historian James Streeter's collection of Groton materials, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library is also eligible for funding for maintenance projects that could include replacement of two roof top units; repair of floor surface in the video studio, reconstruction of the parking lot; and replacement of ceiling tiles throughout the building, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit a grant application to the Connecticut State Library Board for a Groton Public Library project as described in this resolution.

A motion was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Flax stated that if the Town had to provide matching funds, he would not be in support of this resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0177

FYE 2014 Suspense List

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectible have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$533,526.50

Sewer District: \$853.63

Mumford Cove: \$5.81

Total: \$534,385.94

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0181

Referral of Town-Owned Properties to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTIES ACQUIRED THROUGH TAX SALE/FORECLOSURE TO PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the following Town-owned properties and recommendations for disposition to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24:

PIN 261917116969E, Conrad Street - Designate as Open Space

PIN 270017017868E, 1500 Gold Star Highway - Sell
PIN 169806380107E, Laurelwood Road/Poquonnock Road - Sell
PIN 169806381089E, Laurelwood Road - Sell
PIN 168912973189E, Toll Gate Road - Designate as Open Space
PIN 169812864158, 84 Central Avenue - Sell

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

The Town Manager noted that the Planning Commission will provide a recommendation, then the resolution will return to the Council for approval.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0182 Referral of LaValley Property Acquisition to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF LAVALLEY PROPERTY ACQUISITION TO PLANNING COMMISSION
UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the acquisition of the LaValley property at 126 Packer Road for open space to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0183 Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign an Agreement with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH
THE CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) assists Connecticut municipalities in the selection of new police chiefs, and

WHEREAS, there is no cost to the municipality for this service, but the municipality is required to enter into an agreement with CPCA that holds the firm harmless in the case of civil litigation; assigns a single point of contact with CPCA; and prevents appointment of an individual deemed not qualified for the position by CPCA, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association to assist in the selection of a new Police Chief for the Town of Groton.

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

MOTION TO AMEND the RESOLVED paragraph to delete the phrase, "the Town's point of contact," was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax.

In answer to Councilors, the Town Manager noted that the job description can be updated further. The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association will screen resumes of applicants; conduct an oral board exam; and select and provide a list of final candidates.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0187 Appointment of Jeff Zuliani to Parks and Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JEFF ZULIANI TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Jeff Zuliani, 907 Shennecossett Road, is hereby appointed as a member of the

Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending 12/31/16.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0188 Groton Animal Foundation Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE GROTON ANIMAL FOUNDATION NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut provides tax credits to businesses that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Animal Foundation, Inc. has proposed a project that will create an emergency medical fund for the Town of Groton Animal Control Facility, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council approves the Groton Animal Foundation Neighborhood Assistance Act Program application for an emergency medical fund.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0189 Bill Memorial Library Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut provides tax credits to businesses that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Bill Memorial Library has proposed replacing its oil heating system with a geothermal heat source, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council approves the Bill Memorial Library Neighborhood Assistance Act Program for energy conservation.

A motion was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0190 Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ODD FELLOWS HOME OF CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut provides tax credits to businesses that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Odd Fellow Home of Connecticut, Inc. has proposed an energy conservation project that will replace existing packaged thermal air conditioners in its Fairview facility, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council approves the Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Program application for energy conservation.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

2014-0193

Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR RIGHTS OF WAY PROJECTS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects".

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The Town Manager noted that this ten-year agreement will streamline the process with the State, allowing it to take days instead of months to execute rights of way.

The motion carried unanimously

Other Business Continued:

The Town Clerk noted that Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality (MASH) will hold its Annual Gala on June 27, 2014, at Enders Island.

Mayor Schmidt stated that Southeastern Connecticut Television, Inc. (SEC-TV) will hold its Grand Opening on June 18, 2014.

By consensus, the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for June 24, 2014, and the Town Council meeting scheduled for July 1, 2014, have been cancelled.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant